



Typical Answer of the American Studies Exam

Form: 1 point

I. Give a short definition for the following term: 1 point

Soft power: A foreign policy concept used to describe any country's use of nonmilitary power to convince other countries to ascribe to its policies.

II. Explain the following quotations: 6 points for each quotation in a paragraph form.

1. "Obama has no particular principles that I can identify. In fact, the advertising industry enthusiastically gave the best marketing campaign of the year to Obama, the year he was first elected. [...] So, we really have no reason to be surprised." (Noam Chomsky, November 15, 2014)

- The quotation is a criticism of Obama's presidency. He has been president for six years and yet he did not do anything to develop America domestically and internationally. (1 point)
- Chomsky harshly criticizes Obama as he is just another Establishment candidate who wants to become president (1 point)
- Obama's uniqueness, according to Chomsky, lies in the fact he used an effective campaign based on social media and marketing to promote the idea he was the first African-American elected president who might bring about a change (1 point)
- African-Americans disappointed from Obama / Failed to find ways to make changes for minority groups / # BLM rising (1 point)
- Using drones (542 strikes leading to 3797 people killed) (1 point)
- Obama's realpolitik and being a realistic president (focusing on constitution rather than ethical considerations) (1 point)

2. "Let America be America again. Let it be the dream it used to be. Let it be the pioneer on the plain. Seeking a home where he himself is free. Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed. Let it be that great strong land of love." (African-American poet Langston Hughes, 1935)

- The poem speaks of the American Dream (1.5 point)
- Disillusionment from being unable to achieve the dream (1.5 point)
- Reclaiming the American Dream for all Americans (African-Americans, Native Americans, White working class, European and Jewish immigrants) (1.5 point)
- Thoughts about what it was truly like to live in America of 1935 of the Great Depression (1.5 point)

III. Answer the following question: 6 points in a paragraph form

How did the United States foreign policy change after 9/11?

- Bush launched War on Terror in Afghanistan and Iraq, preemptive war, axis of evil (2 points)
- Victims, casualties, Arab hatred, US soft power went down (2 points)
- Setting up of the Guantanamo Bay detention camp in 2002 (Habeas corpus, negative image of America, torture) (2 points)